UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/C.12/1993/SR.47
14 December 1993

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Ninth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 9 December 1993, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. ALSTON

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GE.93-19884 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

1. The CHAIRPERSON welcomed three speakers who had been invited to take part in the Committee's general discussion on human rights education.

2. To begin, he read out the text of a letter addressed to him by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, drawing attention to the importance attached by the World Conference on Human Rights, in its Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to education, training and public information for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. The Committee was requested to provide guidance and practical suggestions to assist in giving practical effect to the Declaration's provisions on human rights education and information, including, in particular, three points: the rights to be selected for emphasis for the purpose of human rights education, training and information; the criteria to be adopted in determining which projects submitted by States should be given priority; and the professions or groups to be selected for priority consideration in human rights education, training and information. Likewise appreciated would be any suggestions on practical and concrete projects or programmes which could serve to implement the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action relating to human rights education, training and information.

3. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights had also addressed the European Conference on the Decade for Human Rights Education, at Rome on 3 December 1993. In paragraph 18 of his text, he had referred to States' obligations to guarantee education and ensure that the human rights content of education was monitored by committees of independent experts, foremost among them being the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In paragraph 19, he had advocated the exploration of ways to focus human rights education activities around the international norms outlined and the committees charged with their application, adding that the latter could consider strengthening the monitoring of the human rights education obligation of States parties through a revision of the information they requested in the reports submitted to them by States parties, and through the preparation of a general comment on the issue; he thought it would be helpful to hold a special thematic session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to discuss, with all concerned, how to improve and strengthen human rights education.

4. The Committee had a clear mandate, under article 13 of the Covenant, to promote and monitor measures to give effect to the right to education, inter alia, through human rights education; in his view, however, it had not yet successfully come to grips with the issue. Although the Committee's own sphere of action was limited, it could encourage Governments and others to make greater efforts in that sphere. One problem was the poor response in many quarters. An example was seen in the case of a State party whose report had been considered at the current session; its reply to requests for information about educational activities had consisted merely of two sentences. That situation was far from unusual. Another example was to

be seen in the Montreal Programme adopted by UNESCO, which simply urged States to report to that body on their educational activities in general - yet another fruitless cataloguing exercise. The Committee, therefore, must seek to devise approaches that were more action-oriented.

5. Mr. McCARTHY (Centre for Human Rights) said that the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights was committed to giving full support to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Centre had a plan of activities on human rights education. In order for action to be effective, the approach must be two-fold: respect for international obligations must be insisted upon, and adequate mechanisms for that purpose were already in place; facilities must be available for States which required help in achieving and maintaining the necessary standards of implementation. For that reason, the Centre had written to the Committee, and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, for views and guidance. The greater part of work in that field depended, of course, on the efforts and collaboration of Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other human rights bodies.

6. The General Assembly had before it, at its current session, a draft resolution on a United Nations decade for human rights education. The text, when adopted, would probably include a request to the Commission on Human Rights to draw up a plan of activities for the Decade, to be submitted to the Assembly at its next session. The Centre would like to plan its activities in implementing the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in a way which aligned with the activities for the Decade. It already had an ad hoc group on human rights education, which was always available for consultation. He looked forward to a fruitful dialogue between the Committee and the Centre.

7. Mr. PREMONT (Centre for Human Rights) recalled that the Meeting of Chairpersons of Treaty Bodies had stressed the importance of human rights education - a topic whose importance had also been emphasized in another forum, the meeting of monitoring bodies of United Nations and regional systems. He would provide the Committee with a copy of the working document on the latter forum's meeting prior to the World Conference on Human Rights; one of its recommendations to the Conference was on strengthening the means of requesting States for further information on human rights education.

8. Mr. WADLOW (World Federalist Movement) said that the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights had rightly stressed the importance of treaty monitoring bodies as part of the framework for promoting human rights education. The idea of a framework was especially important in the economic, social and cultural fields, in which the notion of rights had not yet generally received much practical expression. For that reason, many non-governmental organizations looked forward to closer cooperation with the Committee, as a body and as individual experts. The World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as the International Year of the Family, all of which would take place in 1995, would help to promote awareness of economic, social and cultural rights; he felt sure that the Committee would wish to be actively engaged in the activities relating to all those events. A broad range of non-governmental organizations had worked hard to develop that part of the Vienna Declaration and Programme

of Action which dealt with human rights education, and the NGOs intended to continue their work in that regard at grass-roots, national and international levels. His own organization, a body especially interested in world law, viewed human rights in general in the light of the link between international law and the life of the individual. It would be pleased to continue cooperating with the Committee and the secretariat.

9. Mrs. BONOAN-DANDAN said that she greatly appreciated the contribution made by the previous speakers and welcomed the emerging recognition of the role of human rights education, something that she had striven to promote, at national and international levels, for a long time. Real progress in implementing the provisions of human rights instruments could be achieved only when peoples themselves became widely aware of their respective Governments' obligations. Human rights education, therefore, should not be limited to classroom courses but should be widely disseminated at grass-roots level. She welcomed the growing opportunities to exchange information on developments in that regard, and would be pleased to provide written information, to all those interested, about relevant projects in her own country.

10. Mr. TEXIER said he was pleased that a discussion had begun on a topic of such fundamental importance. If the situation in his own country was typical, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was quite widely known and understood in legislative, executive and judicial spheres whereas the instrument on economic, social and cultural rights was virtually unknown. The Committee had a direct role to play in the promotion of education in that regard, and should collaborate with NGOs as much as possible, since it was they and other organizations which must inevitably do the most effective work, although the Committee could do much to assist. An entire day of discussion on the subject should be organized as soon as possible, with the participation of the Centre for Human Rights, NGOs and the relevant specialized agencies, including UNESCO. Action was necessary in order to develop adequate national contacts, since in many countries the issues were virtually unknown, even in government spheres.

11. Mr. SIMMA proposed that one day of the Committee's regular session in November 1994 should be set aside for a general discussion, and that Mrs. Bonoan-Dandan should be invited to draft a background paper on human rights education.

12. Mr. KOUZNETSOV and Mr. ALVAREZ VITA seconded the proposal.

13. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the day of general discussion could also deal with the dissemination of information on economic, social and cultural rights, referred to by Mr. Texier.

14. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the proposal, and that the Secretariat would be requested to provide the requisite assistance, including the provision to the Committee members of up-to-date information on relevant developments. He would also take it that, in principle, the Committee might consider drafting a general comment on the outcome.

15. It was so decided.

16. Mrs. BONOAN-DANDAN thanked the members of the Committee for the confidence placed in her; she would appreciate any assistance from them and the secretariat in fulfilling her task.

17. The CHAIRPERSON stressed the extent to which the Committee would depend on the Secretariat for appropriate information. It would be particularly useful to have some form of up-to-date survey statement about the human rights information available throughout the United Nations system, including suggestions on how the topic could be dealt with in the Committee's guidelines and its questioning of State party representatives. Likewise useful would be a similar survey about information provided by Governments, although it might be difficult to obtain an adequate response in practice, and a list of the languages in which the text of the Covenant was available.

18. He thanked the three speakers who had addressed the Committee during the general discussion, which he declared to be concluded.

RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND OTHER TREATY BODIES (agenda item 6)

19. The CHAIRPERSON introduced Mr. Joinet, a long-standing member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and Chairman of the Working Group on Administrative Detention of the Commission on Human Rights.

20. Mr. JOINET said that he had wished to make contact with the Committee because the World Conference on Human Rights had stressed the need for greater cooperation between the various human rights bodies of the United Nations system and because the Sub-Commission had appointed him and Mr. Guissé as Special Rapporteurs to draft a report on the campaign against immunity. Two years previously, on the initiative of NGOs, a debate on that subject had been initiated in the Sub-Commission and in 1992 it had led to an enlargement of the Special Rapporteurs' mandate to cover serious violations of economic, social and cultural rights. One possibility before them had been the preparation of a single report dealing with all human rights, but it had been found that although civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other were indivisible, the approach to them had to be different. The Special Rapporteurs would therefore prepare a single report but in two different parts.

21. Although the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights had been amply studied in general under the right to development, and specifically by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in more legal and economic terms by bodies such as UNDP, little material had been accumulated on the campaign against impunity. Particular attention had been given to combating fraudulent enrichment, particularly by government officials, to corruption and organized crime and to their relationship with the State.

22. The first question was whether there was a direct or indirect relationship between those activities, which fell under criminal law, and violations of economic, social and cultural rights. Precedents had been discovered at the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in 1990, which had put forward proposals that had been taken up by the Commission on Human Rights. There was a clear

relationship between tyranny and corruption and between violations of human rights and economic and financial pillaging for personal profit. In that connection, it was important to note the link with the functioning of democracy, which in some cases was likely to be endangered when violations of economic and social rights went unpunished.

23. A number of NGOs wanted an analysis to be made of the responsibility of major economic and financial agencies such as the World Bank and IMF, particularly with regard to indebtedness. As the Special Rapporteurs had extended the scope of their investigations, the need to observe the criterion of effectiveness had become apparent. A report prepared for diagnostic purposes would be just one more report, but to make, on the basis of other people's diagnoses, specific proposals to combat impunity would probably lead to the establishment of priorities. A first category of proposals was constituted by punitive measures under criminal law. The campaign against corruption admitted proposals of that kind, but the situation could become very difficult if, for instance, persons in very high places had to be investigated. The embezzlement of national property by certain heads of State raised interesting questions. In most cases the capital concerned was transferred from South to North: the accomplices might escape, and NGOs, in their quest for justice gave priority to the imposition of penalties. He would be inclined to give priority to the recovery of national property in the general interest, since, when enormous sums were involved, the most important consideration was to restore them to the national economy. However, it would not be possible to have a real strategy for bringing back the embezzled property without a minimum degree of international cooperation. The history of the Duvalier case in France had shown how difficult that was.

24. The CHAIRPERSON asked whether in their report the Special Rapporteurs were considering the liability of government officials for massive violations of economic and social rights - for example, a refusal to permit food to be transported to certain areas or restrictions on the movements of medical personnel - particularly since the perpetrators might be unjustly pardoned in an amnesty.

25. Some NGOs had a tendency to portray the World Bank and IMF as major culprits. Those institutions might need to be made more conscious of human rights issues, but they had never acted as accomplices in what amounted to criminal activities. He wondered whether any analysis had been made of their situation in that respect.

26. Mr. GRISSA said that it was difficult to realize economic, social and cultural rights where political rights were not respected. Corruption existed in every society, but impunity was more widespread in countries where political freedom, especially freedom of the press, was absent.

27. International institutions were established and operated by States, and their senior officers could not take decisions against the wishes of Governments, which had their own political orientations. Thus, the IMF and the World Bank could not be requested to take action which the Governments that controlled them opposed, since they did not have an independent will of their own.

28. Mr. JOINET said that the question of the liability of senior officials who impeded the transportation of emergency food and medicines had been debated in the Sub-Commission and would probably be dealt with in the next report on impunity. One of the aspects involved was closely connected with positions adopted by the Security Council in a number of situations. It was one thing, in the case of a natural disaster, for an official to oppose the transportation of essential goods; it was another to ascertain whether, on the basis of Security Council decisions, certain rules of economic, social and cultural law were being violated.

29. He did not see how senior officers of the IMF and the World Bank could be held criminally liable for carrying out decisions taken by States. Constantly, in the initial stage the Special Rapporteurs would limit themselves to an institutional approach. Each year, UNDP made a number of assessments with regard to decisions taken by those international institutions. Solutions would be more appropriately found at the political decision-making level than through the imposition of administrative penalties.

30. The implementation of economic, social and cultural rights was obviously linked to that of civil and political rights. Agrarian reform was an example. It was extremely rare for even a good agrarian reform programme to be carried out unless a minimum number of claims were made. The powerful were always tempted to take back with one hand what they had given with the other. Thus there was a close connection between the exercise of certain civil and political rights, particularly the right of trade union association and the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights. The Special Rapporteurs would therefore pay particular attention to concrete cases with a view to drawing general conclusions from them.

31. In conclusion, he said that he was anxious to remain in contact with the Committee's Chairperson or, in his absence, with Mr. Texier, so that he could be kept in touch with developments in the Committee and the Committee could be kept in touch with the progress of his work.

32. Mr. SIMMA congratulated Mr. Joinet and his colleagues on their courage in tackling the issue under consideration. A few years previously an American journalist, describing the political and sociological climate in the Commission on Human Rights, had said that the Commission reminded him of "an assembly of foxes guarding the rights of chickens". He was therefore pleased to note that Mr. Joinet was being encouraged by the foxes to continue his work.

33. He agreed with Mr. Grissa that the question of impunity was very important in the context of civil and political rights. It was also, however, of direct relevance to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He remembered having prepared a list of issues in respect of a certain reporting State whose representative had been asked for some information on the impact of the widespread corruption in his country on the enjoyment of housing rights. The representative had replied that he did not see what the question had to do with the work performed by the Committee and had passed on to the next question. Corruption was a taboo subject. He hoped that the Committee would dispel the taboo and discuss the issue more openly, and he looked forward to following the progress of Mr. Joinet's work so that

it could be used operationally within the Committee. In the United States of America there was at present a vast academic debate on corporate criminality and how to deal with it. Much of what had been said in that respect could also be applied to government circles.

34. Mr. RATTRAY associated himself with the remarks by Mr. Simma on Mr. Joinet's timely contribution to what was a significant aspect of the work of the Committee. There was a growing and developing body of humanitarian law which recognized that the systematic denial of the basic necessities of life to communities and peoples should constitute a violation of criminal law to the same extent as a violation of their civil and political rights; the latter would themselves be meaningless in the absence of economic, social and cultural rights.

35. Although the boundaries of that body of law were as yet ill-defined, there were instances in which there was no doubt that they had been violated. Frequent mention had been made of the role of structural adjustment policies as a barrier to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. He noted that the Constitution of the World Bank prohibited it from taking political considerations into account in making decisions. However, structural adjustment was indissociable from political ideology, and the very boundary between politics and economics was indeed blurred. The Committee seemed to have a penchant for dealing with corruption among government officials; it should perhaps examine whether the implementation of specific policies by international institutions did not have equally devastating consequences.

36. Mr. JOINET thanked the members of the Committee for their encouragement to him in his complex task. Although there were doubts whether there was a direct logical link between the global phenomenon of corruption and actual economic, social and cultural rights, he was personally convinced that there was an undeniable connection. The focus had hitherto been on impunity in the developing countries. However, impunity in the developing world had undeniable connections with the developed countries. His own experience of the Noriega case had acquainted him with the financial aspects of impunity. It was not sufficient to condemn those in the developing countries who enjoyed impunity while doing little to address the structures in the developed countries which made impunity possible. He concluded by expressing the hope that the developed countries would shift the emphasis from condemnation of impunity to positive preventive measures, thereby vindicating themselves of the charge that their passivity in fact amounted to complicity.

37. The CHAIRPERSON invited the members of the Committee appointed to report to it on the work of the other treaty bodies to summarize the significant developments in the work of those bodies.

38. Mr. SIMMA informed the Committee of the work on the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, contained in the report on its forty-third session (A/48/18). He noted that for the first time CERD had adopted comprehensive concluding observations based on the format of the Human Rights Committee, and drew particular attention to the special decisions of the Committee in connection with its recently applied preventive procedures in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Yugoslavia. The Committee had

adopted concluding observations, on the basis of the reports submitted by those countries, which had included a chapter on further action. In that respect it was gratifying to note that the Committee had followed in the footsteps of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with regard to the latter's action in the case of the Dominican Republic and Panama. In the case of Papua New Guinea, which had also been scheduled for consideration by special decision of the Committee, the Committee had again followed the example set by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the case of Kenya and had decided to conduct a review of the situation there on the basis of all available information. The Committee had also rescheduled consideration of the situation in States from which it had requested further information or whose reports were excessively overdue.

39. The CHAIRPERSON asked whether Guinea was among the countries whose reports were excessively overdue.

40. Mr. SIMMA said that Guinea was not on the list.

41. The CHAIRPERSON said that it was interesting to note that two of the countries whose reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were overdue also posed problems for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

42. Mrs. JIMENEZ BUTRAGUEÑO reported to the Committee on the activity of the Committee against Torture at its ninth and tenth sessions (A/48/44). She informed the Committee that the Committee against Torture had considered reports by three countries, New Zealand, Mexico and Germany, which had also reported to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its current session. The Committee against Torture had unanimously commended the report submitted by New Zealand, where there had been no instances of torture. In the case of Germany, the Committee against Torture had asked why there were no specific provisions in the current German penal code to combat torture and whether Germany had assumed jurisdiction over acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment committed by officials of the former German Democratic Republic. The Committee against Torture had expressed its satisfaction at the report by Germany and had asked the Government of Germany to consider the possibility of making the necessary declaration for Germany to make the declarations provided for under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention against Torture. In the case of Mexico, the Committee against Torture had also expressed its satisfaction at the quality of the report, although it had voiced concern at the high number of acts of torture that occurred despite the elaborate legal and administrative measures taken to prevent and punish torture.

43. She said that the Committee against Torture was also considering an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and that a report on the matter had already been submitted by a working group.

44. Mrs. BONOAN-DANDAN informed the Committee of the activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its fourth session (CRC/C/20). She said that the Committee on the Rights of the Child had adopted a number of resolutions relevant to the organization of its work, that were also of interest to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

45. On account of its workload and backlog, the Committee on the Rights of the Child had decided to convene a special session in 1994. It had also adopted a resolution in which it requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the support to the Committee and to provide it with a minimum of two additional professional and one additional general service posts. The Committee on the Rights of the Child had also adopted a resolution reaffirming the need for providing the Committee with adequate resources, and in which it requested the secretariat to transmit its reports to the special rapporteurs and working groups established by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and decided to follow closely the developments related to the International Year of the Family, the International Conference on Population Development and the World Summit for Social Development. In the same resolution, it had decided to devote one of its future meetings to the consideration of its contribution to the World Conference on Women. It had also adopted a resolution on children in armed conflicts. The Committee's agenda had also included a general discussion on the economic exploitation of children and it had decided to include on the draft provisional agenda for its fifth session an item entitled "the rights of the child within the family environment - the role of the family in the promotion of the rights of the child".

46. With regard to the Committee's consideration of reports, a noteworthy development was the adoption, in the case of Indonesia, of preliminary observations rather than concluding observations, as there had not been sufficient time to clarify fully a number of questions relating to the implementation of the Convention. The preliminary observations had included an item entitled "further action" from which it was interesting to note that the Committee had welcomed an invitation from Indonesia to members to visit the State party. Preliminary observations rather than concluding observations had also been adopted in the case of Rwanda, and it was particularly interesting to note that the Committee had recommended to the State party that it prepare a new and more comprehensive initial report with a focus on the points raised in the dialogue between the Committee and the delegation.

47. The Committee had also discussed urgent action, the purpose of which was to prevent the deterioration of a situation or to limit the scale of existing violations of children's rights and had decided to establish a working group to ensure that urgent procedures were pursued effectively. It had also held a general discussion on the economic exploitation of children at which papers covering various aspects of that theme had been presented by official bodies, NGOs and individuals.

48. The CHAIRPERSON thanked the Committee members who had reported on the work of other treaty bodies at the present session and requested them to continue performing that task in 1994. He noted with appreciation that Mr. Kouznetsov had volunteered to report on the work of the Human Rights Committee at future sessions.

49. Noting that human rights matters in general and matters pertaining to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in particular were not being adequately reflected in preparations for the Social Summit to be held in 1995, he suggested that a passage should be included in the report requesting

authorization for the Committee to be represented by one of its members at the Social Summit and also at the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in the same year.

50. It was so decided.

51. The CHAIRPERSON read out the text of two decisions of the Committee, as follows:

> "The Committee notes with satisfaction the provision contained in the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights encouraging the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to continue the examination of optional protocols to the Covenant. The Committee therefore decides to continue its consideration of a draft optional protocol at its tenth session on the basis of a paper to be submitted to it by Mr. Philip Alston. That paper should analyse the proposal further, in the light of earlier discussions, and identify the principal characteristics of a possible optional complaints procedure.
>
> "The Committee decides that the topic to be discussed during the day of general discussion at its tenth session, to be held on Monday, 16 May 1994, is: 'The role of social safety nets as a means of protecting economic, social and cultural rights, with particular reference to situations involving major structural adjustment and/or the transition to a free market economy.' The Committee invites the participation of groups with special expertise in relation to these matters. In particular, it invites the participation of representatives of concerned international agencies including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organisation, United Nations Research Institute on Social Development and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.".

52. Mr. GRISSA proposed that the United Nations Development Programme should be added to the international agencies listed in the last sentence of the second paragraph.

53. It was so decided.

54. Mrs. JIMÉNEZ BUTRAGUEÑO suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, a Committee member should be designated to prepare an introductory paper for the day of general discussion at the tenth session.

55. The CHAIRPERSON said that, in view of the large amount of information already available, an introduction did not seem indispensable.

56. The decisions, as amended, were adopted.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION

57. Mr. ENNACEUR (Tunisia) speaking as the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, said that he wished to pay a tribute to the energetic efforts made by the Committee to promote recognition of economic, social and cultural rights, especially at the World Conference on Human Rights held in June 1993. Many delegations to the World Conference had shared the Committee's concern at the tendency of the international community to give priority to civil and political rights over economic, social and cultural rights. That tendency was undoubtedly rooted in the mistaken belief that recognition of the latter set of rights followed almost automatically upon the recognition of the former set. While it was unfortunately true that the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action (A/CONF.157/23) had failed to give sufficient prominence to the Committee's concerns, the decision to encourage the Commission on Human Rights to continue the examination of optional protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (para. 75, section II of the document) should be viewed as a sign of significant progress in the right direction. The proposal for a system of indicators to measure progress in the realization of the rights set forth in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (para. 98 of the document) also showed a favourable response on the part of the World Conference to the Committee's concerns.

58. The World Conference had also made a significant step forward by its decision, adopted by consensus, to reaffirm the right to development as set forth in the Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986). Speaking as Chairman of the Working Group on the Right to Development established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1993/22, he said that at its first meeting, held in November 1993, the Working Group had surveyed the present situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration worldwide, and established contacts with interested international agencies and non-governmental organizations. In considering obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration at the national and international levels, the Working Group had found that examples of countries achieving global development were very few and far between; in almost every case, development was pursued in a few selected fields while others were neglected or ignored. At the international level, it had to be recognized that neither the economic nor the political environment was at present favourable to the right to development. The Working Group had found that cooperation between international agencies as regards the right to development was still unsatisfactory. Within the Centre for Human Rights itself, there was a regrettable lack of communication between the various treaty monitoring bodies. The Working Group had recommended that a first meeting of the treaty bodies, the Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group on the Right to Development should be held in 1994 with a view to exchanging information and experience.

59. In reply to a question by Mr. ALVAREZ VITA, he said that the Working Group was composed of 15 experts appointed by their Governments on a regional basis, three experts representing each region. Meetings were public and were attended by representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies, who not only contributed statements but actively

participated in the dialogue. The Working Group wished to encourage contributions from all quarters and, to that end, had prepared a questionnaire to be sent to Governments and non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in its work.

60. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr. Ennaceur for his statement and assured the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Committee's full cooperation and support.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.